

Re-Sentencing Means Less Prison Time for Man Convicted of '97 Bremerton Murder

By Josh Farley

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PORT ORCHARD —

A former Port Orchard man on Friday pleaded guilty for a second time to killing a Bremerton woman in 1997.

An appellate court decision brought Michael Skinner Jr., 29, back to Kitsap County Superior Court this year. The appeals court ruled that some of Skinner's juvenile criminal history should not have been considered when his original sentence was calculated.

Skinner was originally sentenced to about 21 years for the shooting death of Deborah Rosen, 32, outside an East Bremerton pub in 1997. After the appeals court sent the case back to Kitsap County, Skinner [contemplated withdrawing the guilty plea](#) he made in 1999.

But on Friday he pleaded guilty again, although he told Rosen's family he didn't pull the trigger. He was eventually re-sentenced by Kitsap County Superior Court Judge Anna M. Laurie to 19 1/2 years in prison, about 20 months less than his original sentence.

He's already served about 12 years of that sentence.

The courtroom was filled with family and friends of both Skinner and Rosen, many of whom couldn't hold back tears. Rosen's family shared memories of a woman they remembered as warm and friendly. Dean Rosen, her brother, said his sister "could make friends anywhere and anytime."

He said he doesn't believe Skinner has shown any remorse.

"We believe the only thing Skinner is sorry about is that he was caught," he said.

Police arrested Skinner, then 18, and Timothy Chancellor, then 24, about a year after the crime. Both men claimed the other shot Rosen to death and stole her purse as she went home from working at a Perry Avenue pub.

Skinner, along with friends, family and his attorney, said Chancellor was the shooter.

Skinner said he didn't care if Laurie gave him the 19 1/2 year sentence, but he said he wanted the Rosen family to "look at the police reports and look at the evidence," that would show he wasn't the shooter.

"I'm so mad they're being lied to and there's nothing I can do about it," he said.

Chancellor also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 16 years and 8 months for second-degree murder. It was later reduced to a manslaughter conviction due to a state Supreme Court decision, however, and he has since been released.

